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Tutunjian Deems First 100 Days A Success

For Immediate Release

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(April 9, 2004- TROY) Mayor Harry Tutunjian said Friday he believes his first 100 days in office were successful and he looks forward to completing the year on a high note.

Tutunjian highlighted three areas he wanted to address during the early months of his first year, and the Republican mayor believes he has done that.

The first area Tutunjian addressed was the financial situation. Since taking office, Tutunjian has shrunk the size of his Corporation Counsel's office, cut several positions he deemed unnecessary, and issued an order for all departments to cut back 3.5 percent due to unexpected costs. All told, the cuts made thus far will save the City hundreds of thousands of dollars.

"The financial situation we were left in by the Pattison administration was not a pretty one," Tutunjian said. "While he had the ability to cover his shortfalls with unused debt service money, we do not. But we are working our hardest to change the situation, and I will continue to make the financial future of Troy my number one priority."

Shortly before taking office, Tutunjian made the decision to have an Action Team, whose duties would be to clean up the City of Troy. The Action Team has been a success throughout the entire City for the following projects.

- Towed 225 abandoned motor vehicles
- Removed 300 tons of trash from the streets
- Issued 75 littering tickets
- Cleaned up an astounding 40 blocks of alleys
- Partnered with Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Dan's Hauling, Swota Signs, Vons Garage, Quality Glass, and Bonded Concrete.
- Partnered with SOS (drug squad) to close several crack houses
- Demolished 13 fire ravaged buildings
- Ticketed and fined numerous out of town dumpers
- Will begin an 8-week Street Cleaning Program

"People have been chuckling about the name of the Action Team, but one thing is for sure, they're getting the job done," Tutunjian said. "We have made it a mission to clean up Troy, we have just begun."

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Tutunjian said the Action Team is perhaps the most important part of his administration. The reasoning for that is he believes keeping the progress moving in Troy is essential.

“Things in Troy are great right now,” Tutunjian said. “Housing sales are phenomenal, businesses are thriving, people are happy. We are trying to set the example that you should respect your neighborhood. Word travels fast in this world, and the word is spreading that Troy is being cleaned up and is ready to become one of the best cities in the United States.”

The third aspect of Tutunjian’s first 100 days is the strengthening of some laws, as well as the introduction of others. In a little more than three months, the City Council, at the request of the Mayor, has increased the fines for illegal dumping, approved more than \$700,000 in auction sales, and approved legislation setting a daytime school curfew for anyone 17 and under.

“The key to strengthening legislation, and introducing new laws is enforcement,” Tutunjian said. “Voluntary compliance is a term from the past. By no means is this a police state, but people should have respect for where they live and work. That is all that we are asking.”